

**Amendments to the Specification**

On page 1, before the first paragraph, i.e., between the title and line 1, please insert:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/959,218 filed February 4, 2002 (I.A. filed April 19, 2000), now U.S. Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Background of the Invention**

Please amend the second and third paragraphs of page 1, i.e., page 1, line 6 - page 2, line 2, to read as follows:

A reciprocating piston drive mechanism having such characteristics is known from ~~DE A 41 02 710 GB 2,241,287~~. In this reciprocating piston drive mechanism according to the state-of-the-art there are located in the cylinder two springs, of which one each extends between one of the face sides of the piston and the related face side of the cylinder. Through this, the piston adopts a substantially central axial position in the idle state. When continually stressing the helical springs, fatigue affecting the material of the springs is unavoidable. For this reason, the service life of reciprocating piston drive mechanisms according to the state-of-the-art is thus limited to the service life of the material employed for the springs.

The reciprocating piston drive mechanism according to ~~DE A 41 02 710 GB 2,241,287~~ is a component of a reciprocating piston pump, in which at least one of the two chambers created by piston and cylinder has the function of a compression chamber. Located in this chamber or these chambers are the helical springs. This give rise to unwanted clearance volumes, this impairing the pumping effect.

Before the first paragraph of page 2, i.e., between lines 2 and 3, please insert the heading:

Summary of the Invention

Before the first paragraph of page 4, i.e., before the first line of page 4, please insert the heading:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Before the second paragraph of page 4, i.e., between lines 10 and 11, please insert the heading:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Please amend the first paragraph of page 5, i.e., lines 1-8, to read as follows:

Two permanent magnets **18, 19** which are located in the areas of the face sides of the piston **4** are components of the electromagnetic drive mechanism on the side of the piston. In the radial direction, pole components, particularly covering disks 21 to 24 (drawing figures 1,2), are assigned to the permanent magnets **18, 19**. Expediently, they are covered by these pole components, whereby the covers covering disks 21, 24 located on the face side may be components of piston covering disks **25, 26** which in their central areas consist of non-ferromagnetic material. The remaining part of the piston **4** is made of non-ferromagnetic material.

At the end of page 12, i.e., after line 10, please insert the paragraph:

The invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiment. Obviously, modifications and alterations will occur to others upon reading and understanding the preceding detailed description. It is intended that the

invention be construed as including all such modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims or the equivalents thereof.

On page 13, before claim 1, please insert:

Having thus described the preferred embodiment, the invention is now claimed to be: